

Not rec'd till June 13.

Dear Sir,

The enclosed must  
have been meant for you.



The Rev. S. J. May S. J. M.

Syracuse

New York

United States of America.



No "poetry"



W.F. H. P. O. O.  
MAY 13 1854

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Ms. B. 1. 6 v. 5, p. 22



Bridgewater May 4<sup>th</sup> 1852.

My dear Sir

I have to return you my most sincere thanks for the very valuable parcel, which I have received from you. At an regular meeting last evening, I distributed a goodly number of the papers & pamphlets, and hope that much good may be done by them. The report of your decade Meeting is highly interesting, and some of the speeches cordially sympathized with: but some portions I would gladly make us speak. Both Joseph Barker & George Sauter ought to know better than to compare the state of even the lowest class of the English poor with that of American Slaves: I cannot understand how they are so blinded to the difference in principle, which must exist in the most despotic state when compared with the professedly claimed in men by the Americans. My principles lead me to sympathize with the most radical movements, which can be raised in Europe; I have no love <sup>for</sup> ~~for~~ our Emperors and Kings, and have been



in connection with the so called friends of Revolution in Europe. I have no wish to eternate the wrongs which the people have suffered, but it is an outrage upon common sense to compare the condition of ancient America Negro slave to that even of a Russian serf. Joseph Barker was given to exaggeration in England and so was Jerry Sumner if he is the same that lived in Derby, & a trip across the Atlantic does not seem to have improved them. - Did Joseph Barker ever state in America that he had been a member of Parliament? If he did he made use of a quibble; there was a return made against which he protested, but as he never pushed the matter to trial, it ended without his taking the seat. - He is a very able man, is Joseph far more so, and a very well meaning man too, but it would be better if he were less hasty in forming his opinions, and less dogmatic in asserting them when formed. He was as dogmatic against what he was pleased to call Infidelity some years ago, as he is now against what he now assumes Christianity is. His change ought to have taught him moderation; he knows he has been wrong in days gone by, he ought not to be so sure that he is not wrong now. - I hear that he is coming over here on a visit, if I get a chance, I will let him know what I have written to you. I should be glad to see him again notwithstanding all our differences for his honorable conduct in the Slavery Question shows



that his heart is sound however much I may fancy his judgement is not sound. —

I have been greatly pleased with Parker Pillsbury who spent a few days here with us. My expectations were not disappointed; I only long for the opportunity of seeing more of him, on his return from Paris. He was still not quite as strong as I could wish, but he said that he was in better health than he had been for five years. You won't be sorry to hear that I am sure. I took him to see the ruins of Glastenbury, our oldest abbey; that is something which the States cannot forget, & he was very properly pleased. — I don't like a man who is not touched by looking upon the remains of ages long gone by, and in whom such a link with antiquity does not rouse up ideas of great men so lately and long ~~gone~~ departed. —

What are the States going to do about Cuba? Do you really believe that this Black Warrior case will be considered ground enough for a war with Spain? It does seem abominable; and when you look upon Cobden defending American schemes of annexation, and asserting that America has no slave trade it is enough to make one's blood boil with indignation. — If Cobden's miserable truckling to the Emperor of France after the Conf d'Etat, his weak attempts



to paleate Russian oppression, had not prepared me to some  
extent I should never have believed, that the Champion  
of Free Trade and Liberalism, who went about the country to  
welcome Hoputh could have sunk so low, as to become the  
defender of Southern Slavebreeders! Your Webster was  
a model of purity compared to Corder. He was an  
American, exposed to the enormous temptations which  
surround all public men in the States, but our hero  
has gone out of his way, to eat dirt; as the Persians  
would say. — I have lost all faith in political liber-  
arians. Our hope must be from other quarters.

I trust you will soon hear of aid in the Anti-  
Slavery Movement from an unexpected quarter.  
A friend of mine an Hungarian exile who lives  
in Bradford has heard something of Antislavery  
feeling and fact, that he has determined to try  
whether something cannot be done for your  
cause in his own land. He intends writing to the  
influential persons in Hungary and to the New  
papers giving statements as to what Slavery really is.  
I have placed the Key to Uncle Tom, Lowell's  
Slave Code, & the letter to Hoputh in his  
hands: from these he can culle facts enough.  
He thinks the Austrian Government will  
permit things like these to be published, if not



to excite a prejudice against the States. Perhaps they may be stupid enough not to see, that liberty and human rights cannot be advocated anywhere, or in any shape, without reacting to and the destruction of oppression and tyranny everywhere. - I shall be very glad if his plans succeed; you will hear from me again how he is getting on. Of course even must not be too sanguine at first, but in a year or so we may see some fruits springing up.

You know W. Allen of Bangor in Maine. I dare say? Perhaps you have seen that I have a slight controversy with him. - I should be glad to know if you consider him a sterling abolitionist; he refers very boastfully to his antecedents, but the New York Tribune quoted him at her time as one who had been "suborning" on this question. I suppose that means preaching abstract principles & ~~not~~ scrupulously avoiding applying them to practical purposes. He tried to bring up the Douglass affair in the Advocate, but I thought it prudent, to say no more than you will see in the last. As my mind is fully made up on the merits of that struggle which Douglass forced upon you, but public notice of it in England, gives Douglass an



importance, he does not merit, and creates bitter  
feeling, which had better be avoided. — In private  
letters I hear he states that Wendell Phillips is not  
really a Disunionist, what authority has Mr. Allen  
for such a statement?

I am not quite as hopeful about Mr. Charnovzow, as  
I used to be. — I had rather a smart correspondence  
with him, after the break up of the Manchester  
Society, but have heard nothing for nearly nothing  
from him since. — I fear my radicalism has  
offended him. It would be a pity if it had,  
for I believe he is a very honest antislavery  
man himself, but trammelled by a miserable  
Committee. The Conference they intend holding  
this year will test New Broad Street. I look  
forward with interest to what it may produce.  
By the way I have written to Charnovzow today  
asking whether the presence of Parker Pillsbury  
whose health will be better. I hope to be restored, and  
be made very useful at our Conference. Such  
things will test their sincerity, and I am anxious  
to know whether our hopes are again to be destroyed.  
If they do not show themselves then this summer,  
they have had my last opinion, that is certain.  
I shall not close this letter till Tuesday next as



Something may turn up between now and then  
of interest to you. I enclose a little poem  
that may perhaps do for the Liberator. - It is  
much more like poetry, than very much that

Jacobsen puts in -  
May the 13<sup>th</sup> 1854

I waited till today to write, as I had not had an answer  
from Chamberlain on Tuesday. Since then I have heard from  
him: he says that he is making arrangements to have Mr.  
Pittsbury as a speaker at the Anniversary on the 22<sup>nd</sup>  
of this month. The special topic he writes him to speak  
about is Nebraska, and no one in England can do justice  
to that subject as Mr. Pittsbury. - I fear that this is too early  
for our friend to venture on the Platform, but it is an  
encouraging sign to find that the Brit. & For. are really  
taking steps to cooperate with out and out abolitionists.  
It is a great ~~thing~~ step in advance, and promises  
well. If he is well enough I hope Parker Pittsbury  
will speak. He will have an audience such as he  
can get nowhere else, and will be enabled to preach  
the Antislavery Gospel to some who have never  
heard it elsewhere. -

I had a very pleasant visit from Miss Estlin and  
Mr. Webb on Wednesday, and had much pleasant  
conversation about Antislavery work, and its prospects  
in England. - On the whole the last year has been  
a useful one. There has always been a latent A.S.  
feeling here, but it is now becoming more definite.



People are beginning to understand that all compromise  
with evil is advantageous to the evil only, and are more  
and more ready to go the full length of the principles so  
consistently & honourably advocated by your Society in  
the States. In time I trust we shall be enabled to  
concentrate public feeling here upon your movement  
& then I hope you will really be helped by English Abolitionists  
& will not have to rely as now, upon a few isolated  
friends. The Advocate is our great means of un-  
folding. This and the Leeds Tracts we find of the  
greatest use all over the country. - Here in Bristol  
I continually hear praises in addition, to the  
agency of the Standard & Penny Warmer Freeman  
which we keep in continual circulation. The  
Liberator I send only to a select few, who are  
very glad indeed to receive it and value the  
energetic spirit which animates its editor  
at all times. - I must now close my hurried  
letter, as the post will not wait for me. -  
If you have time let me hear from you. I shall  
value your letters, but if you do not find time  
I shall be still assured that you are employing  
your time in advancing the great cause of  
human freedom, & shall be satisfied.

Believe me sincerely & faithfully

your friend

Alfred Hewitt